

*Dysphania multifida* (L.) Mosyakin & Clemants, SMALL-LEAVED WORMSEED, CUT-LEAF GOOSEFOOT. Perennial herb or annual, taprooted, 1–several-stemmed at base, branched at most nodes along main axes, in range spreading and decumbent, 8–30 cm tall; shoots with hemispheric flower clusters at most nodes, densely puberulent and short-stalked glandular-hairy, pleasantly and mildly aromatic. **Stems:** 8–12-ridged, to 3 mm diameter, with ridges descending from each leaf, becoming sparsely hairy on old stems. **Leaves:** helically alternate, deeply pinnately lobed with principal lobes often opposite and minor toothlike lobes usually between principal lobes or the smallest leaves serrate, short-petiolate, without stipules; petiole winged, < 2 mm long,  $\pm$  indistinguishable from blade; blade oblanceolate to oblong or elliptic in outline, 3–15(–45)  $\times$  0.5–6(–10) mm, sinuses 0.4–0.8 mm deep, tapered at base to a winged petiole, principal lobes oblong to oblanceolate, 1–2(–3) mm long,  $\pm$  as wide as sinuses, terminal lobe ovate to oblanceolate, 1–2.2  $\times$  0.8–1.5 mm, lobes somewhat inrolled under on margins ( $\pm$  revolute), lobes acute at tips, pinnately veined with midrib sunken on upper surface and conspicuously raised on lower surface but lateral lobes often lacking a conspicuous midrib, upper surface dull and subglabrate with many minute, sessile, yellow glands, lower surface short-tomentose with much larger glandular hairs (= yellowish farinose). **Inflorescence:** leafy panicle of dense flower clusters (glomerules), glomerules axillary, 1.5–5(–7) mm across, of 2–13(–21)  $\pm$  sessile flowers, each glomerule of mostly pistillate flowers and at least 1 bisexual flower, bracteate, puberulent with some glandular hairs; bract subtending glomerule leaflike, pinnately lobed, dentate, or serrate, sometimes tiny; bractlet subtending flower absent; pedicel  $\pm$  absent. **Bisexual flower:** radial, 1–1.5 mm across; **calyx** (4–)5-lobed,  $\pm$  obovoid to top-shaped, at anthesis length = width; tube cup-shaped, green, puberulent and with some glandular hairs, at anthesis veins inconspicuous; lobes cupped-deltate, 0.3–0.9 mm long,  $\leq$  tube, sparsely puberulent and with inconspicuous glandular hairs; **corolla** absent; **stamens** (4–)5,  $\pm$  free, exerted; filaments slightly compressed front-to-back, 1–1.5 mm long, translucent-white; anthers basifixed, dithecal, the halves unequal and spreading, 0.5–0.8 mm long, pale yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, narrowly inversely pyramidal or oblanceoloid to slightly compressed-obovoid, 0.7–1 mm long, densely papillate-glandular above midpoint, sparsely glandular-hairy toward the base, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style included, immediately forked into 2–5 branches, the branches threadlike (rarely branched), 0.2–0.7 mm long, translucent-white, stigmatic base to tip with short papillate hairs. **Pistillate flower:** radial, < 0.8 mm across; **calyx** (4–)5-lobed,  $\pm$  obovoid to top-shaped, at anthesis length = width; tube cup-shaped, green, puberulent and with some glandular hairs, at anthesis veins inconspicuous; lobes cupped-deltate, 0.3–0.9 mm long,  $\leq$  tube, sparsely puberulent and with inconspicuous glandular hairs; **corolla** absent; **stamens** absent; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, inversely pyramidal or oblanceoloid to slightly compressed-obovoid, 0.3–0.5 mm long, densely papillate-glandular above midpoint, sparsely glandular-hairy toward the base, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style exerted, immediately forked into 2–5 branches, the branches threadlike (rarely branched again), 0.2–0.7 mm long, translucent-white, stigmatic base to tip with short papillate hairs, persistent. **Fruit:** utricle, 1-seeded,  $\pm$  obovoid and slightly compressed, (0.8–)  $\pm$  1.2 mm long, loosely enclosed within persistent calyx, the pericarp slightly adherent to seed, yellowish translucent, glandular-papillate mostly at tip; calyx saclike, obovoid to top-shaped, aging conspicuously net-veined, with appressed lobes.

**Seed:** obovate to broadly ellipsoid compressed side-to-side, vertical, in range 1–1.2 × 0.8–1 mm, glossy reddish brown or orange-brown to dark brown, smooth. Late June–early November.

Naturalized. Annual or short-lived herbaceous perennial observed most often near the coastline but expected elsewhere at waste sites. *Dysphania multifida* characteristically has prostrate stems with ascending branches, which are mildly aromatic due to the presence of glandular hairs on its stems and leaves. Flowers are minute, and both bisexual and pistillate flowers occur in the glomerule. Its calyx (perianth) is green and has short lobes, which become appressed in fruit. The fruit has been termed either an achene or a utricle, because the vertical seed is covered by a see-through, very thin fruit wall that is easily removed. Fruits are dispersed still enclosed within the persistent perianth, which may appear saclike and veiny when dry.

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